United Nations A/HRC/25/NGO/183

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.14-11780
1411780

Please recycle

The Human Rights Council must exhort Ukraine to comply with UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and overcome impunity for human rights violations in the context of the EuroMaydan demonstrations

Amnesty International has been documenting human rights violations in the context of "EuroMaydan" since 21 November 2013. We have documented numerous cases of violations of the right to peaceful assembly, excessive use of force by law enforcement officers, unfair trials and harassment of those who have lodged complaints with the authorities.[1] We have continued to document abusive use of force by law enforcement officers. We have also received several reports of abductions and ill-treatment of active protestors by unknown assailants.[2] On 16 January, in chaotic conditions that violated parliamentary procedure, the Ukrainian parliament passed repressive legislation which severely curtailed the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression, including by requiring NGOs receiving foreign funding to register as "foreign agents", criminalizing libel, and giving police additional powers to control the conduct of demonstrations. President Yanukovych signed the new laws into force on 18 January distancing Ukraine yet further from its international human rights obligations. This new law fanned the flames of protest. Parliament repealed the repressive laws on 31 January, but protests in Kyiv and other cities are continuing. Violence broke out again on 18 February after an unsuccessful attempt by the opposition to table constitutional changes in the parliament.

Hundreds of people have been wounded, some very seriously, as a result of interventions by law enforcement officers during the protests. On 21 February, the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that 16 police officers had died as a result of the protests, and there are reports that during the week of 16 – 22 February, as many as 78 people may have died in Kyiv alone, although we are unable to verify these figures. Some protestors have been abducted by unknown assailants, and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment – one was found dead. The shocking footage of a EuroMaydan protestor being stripped, humiliated and beaten by Ukrainian law enforcement officers brought international attention to the issue of torture and ill-treatment and police impunity in Ukraine. In the case of the protestor who was stripped and beaten, the Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs took the unusual step of issuing a public apology for the incident. The reality is that individuals who complain about police ill-treatment have little chance of getting their complaints heard, let alone acted upon. There are no official statistics for the number of people that have complained about torture and other ill-treatment since the beginning of the EuroMaydan demonstrations. Amnesty International has interviewed over 20 such individuals and none of them has received any assurance or indication from the authorities that their complaints are being investigated.

Amnesty International has documented many cases of torture and other ill-treatment in Ukraine over the years, and this research has demonstrated that the Ukrainian authorities fail to live up to their obligations to effectively and impartially investigate all such allegations and to bring the perpetrators to justice.[3] Widespread frustration with the apparent impunity of law enforcement officers has fuelled social conflict. A report by the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 30 January 2014 calls on the Ukrainian authorities to conduct "transparent and impartial investigations" into incidents of abusive use of force by the police on 30 November, on 1 and 11 December, as well as during the escalation of violence starting on 19 January 2014. In a statement on 18 February, the UN Human Rights Commisioner Navi Pillay called for "an urgent and independent investigation to establish facts and responsibilities, including the possible use of excessive force, and to ensure accountability for these deadly clashes". In its concluding observations on the Seventh periodic Report of Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Committee

[1] Amnesty International's report "EuroMaydan" Human Rights Violations During Protests in Ukraine (AI Index: EUR 50/020/2013) which covers the situation up to 23 December can be found at: http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/020/2013/en.

[2] See Ukraine: Sorry is not enough: Police impunity must end!, (AI Index EUR 50/008/2014),http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR50/008/2014/en/f0bc809b-38ba-4c68-95f9-5a02a0f86438/eur500082014en.pdf.

[3] See Ukraine: No Evidence of a Crime: Paying the price for police impunity in Ukraine (AI Index EUR 50/009/2011), http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/009/2011.

called on Ukraine to "establish a genuinely independent complaints mechanism to deal with cases of alleged torture or ill-treatment" as a matter of priority.

Amnesty International recognizes that some protestors in Kyiv and other cities have been violent, but this violence has been met, in many cases, by the abusive use of force by law enforcement officers. The use of violence by some protestors does not absolve law enforcement officers from compliance with international human rights standards. We have also documented cases where peaceful protestors and bystanders have been beaten by law enforcement officers. The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials require that law enforcement officers should exercise restraint in using force and should minimize damage and respect and preserve life.

Amnesty International urges the HRC to call for:

- an independent international investigation into allegations of human rights violations, such as arbitrary and abusive use of force, including killings, committed by the Ukrainian law enforcement officials, abuses by any vigilante groups who have allegedly colluded with them, and abuses by others which have taken place in the context of the EuroMaydan protests. The independent investigation should be followed by effective steps to ensure that, where sufficient admissible evidence exists, those suspected of such crimes are prosecuted in proceedings which fully conform with international standards for fair trial;

- ongoing international monitoring of the human rights situation in Ukraine, including of the effectiveness of any domestic investigation of human rights violations;

- states to suspend transfers to Ukraine of munitions, weapons, and related equipment including crowd control weapons and devices, training and techniques that pose a substantial risk of being misused by security forces in Ukraine until substantive steps have been taken by the Ukrainian authorities to achieve accountability for previous violations and effective mechanisms are in place to ensure that such items will not be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international law. The suspension should include all indirect exports via other countries, the transfer of components and technologies used for such equipment, and any brokering, financial or logistical activities that would facilitate such transfers.

Amnesty International reiterates its call to the Government of Ukraine to:

- ensure that the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies (including police, soldiers and other security forces) comply fully with international standards as set out in the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and thereby respect and protect the right to life, liberty and security of person;

- ensure that all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement

- officers, including killings, all alleged abuses by any vigilante groups who have allegedly colluded with them, as well as abuses by others, are promptly, effectively and independently investigated and that those reasonably suspected of such crimes are prosecuted in proceedings which fully comply with international standards for fair trial; urgently establish the State Investigation Bureau outlined in the new Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine as a genuinely independent institution that effectively and promptly investigates all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment by law enforcement officers.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1411878

Please recycle

CRITICAL DRIVERS OF PERSECUTION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA FACT-FINDING MISSION (Sept-Dec 2013)

Much of the violence in the last five years taking place in the northern states of Nigeria is attributed to Jihadist terror group Boko Haram. With over 5,000 casualties affecting citizens from fifteen countries in just five years,[1] Boko Haram earned a dubious distinction as the second most lethal terrorist organization in 2012.[2] While Boko Haram's bloody terrorist tactics certainly merit serious concern, the actions of this group have overshadowed a pattern of systemic religious violence and insidious persecution in Nigeria. This presentation looks in depth at the elements of religious discrimination that constitute the continuum of persecution in Nigeria.

A. "STREET LEVEL" PERSECUTION

The "street level" refers to the general Muslim public, represented in every state in northern Nigeria. Given the relative peacefulness of southern Muslims and the comparative restiveness of northern Muslims in relation to Christians, our research findings indicate that there is a notable propensity to extremism within significant populations of northern Nigeria as distinct from practicing Muslims in the south.

Emergence Of Child Soldiers

The polygamous practices in Islam as well as child marriages result in a single family producing up to 40 children. Given lack of education and concomitant poverty, parents often surrender their children to itinerant street clerics and beggars. Many in the north reject western education, leaving their children in the hands of wandering mallams (Islamic clerics) to be instructed in the Quran while begging. This practice has produced literally millions of unemployed and unemployable youths who are ready foot soldiers for "Street" anti-Christian riots and, now with Boko Haram, "Sect" suicide bombers. Estimates place the numbers between 10-30 million.

Political Violence

A former military head of state, General Buhari had made a statement over a decade ago declaring that Muslims must never again allow an infidel to rule Nigeria. On another occasion, General Buhari declared his support for the imposition of Islamic Sharia law across Nigeria. He effectively positioned himself to be seen in the current election cycle as the "Muslim" candidate. According to subjects interviewed in Kaduna, which was among the states that witnessed the most violence, the following unsettling facts emerged about General Buhari's actions after he won the nomination of his party, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC): 1) General Buhari's campaign was "based on religion" (Islam) and "built on hatred" for the ruling party (PDP) calling for attacks on "infidels" (Christians) and apostates (Muslims who supported the ruling party). 2) Pre-election campaigns of his party (CPC) were frightening to inhabitants of the city because of the mob mentality. 3) Voters were intimidated to vote for the CPC.

Premeditation

In Bauchi in January 2011, six Muslim boys abducted and gang-raped a 15-year old Christian girl. One of them was apprehended by security agents and a machete was found on his bike with the logo of the CPC on it. This was four months before the Post Election Violence and is highly indicative that the party was arming Muslims in advance of the election and that Christians were already being targeted prior to the election.

Perpetration

In Gombe state, we found direct links to the CPC. Members of the CPC had destroyed the PDP secretariat during campaigns before the election. General Buhari returned to the state to apologize for the actions of his supporters. After the elections, all nine Christian family members of the state chairman of the ruling party were burnt alive in his home. This time, General Buhari denied that the attackers were his supporters.

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[1] http://factsnigeriaviolence.wordpress.com/spreadsheet/2012-3/

[2] http://www.start.umd.edu/start/announcements/announcement.asp?id=424

Christian Targeting
On a university campus in Zaria, Kaduna, where the chapel was burnt, we found that: A) The attacks had unmistakable anti-Christian bias, B) The attacks appeared to have tacit or implicit support from campus authorities who encountered the attackers, C) Attacks against the property of absent Christian students who were on vacation and thus did not vote locally evidences pre-existing animus unrelated to the polls.

Christians currently express concern that the composition of General Buhari's new opposition party is again heavily slanted towards Muslims to the disadvantage of Christians. All APC National Party Leadership Posts are held by Muslims. Even the ruling party has marginalized Christians in some state elections.

Christian Targeting Within the Family
Members of the family are critical actors in persecution, especially in cases of conversion to Christianity. Muslim converts are generally forced to flee into hiding to avoid death for apostasy. Loss of employment, livelihood, family, friends and belongings is a usual occurrence in many instances.

B. "STATE LEVEL" PERSECUTION

Direct persecution by governments is rampant in most northern Nigerian states. It usually occurs at the federal level when the presidency is occupied by a Muslim northerner. Thus, for the majority of Nigeria's existence, which has been chiefly under military rule, discrimination was more pronounced. Even now, it remains entrenched by institutionalized discriminatory policy and practice.

C. "SECT LEVEL" PERSECUTION

There are numerous fanatical movements in northern Nigeria. These range from the radical Izalla sect as well as the Iran-backed Shia group to the more extreme jihadist terror groups Ansaru and Boko Haram. Boko Haram's atrocities in its decade-long history of violence have been well-documented so below are recent notable trends in 2013.

School Massacres While In Session
Boko Haram, whose name translates to "Western Education is Sin," regards educational institutions with great disdain and has burned down schools to prevent students from "westernizing" and attending non-Islamic schools. Since 2013, Boko Haram has been attacking schools while they are in session and killing students and teachers with impunity.

Highway Slaughters:
There has been an alarming increase in the number of highway attacks. Boko Haram has used roadblocks to stop travelers and discriminately kill them. Christians, police officers and members of military are targeted and killed. Boko Haram members force passengers out of their vehicles, check ID cards, and ask a series of questions to determine their identity. Any passenger unable to respond "correctly" is executed.

Sustained Attacks on Churches:
One of the expressed goals of Boko Haram is to rid the population of all Christians and enact an Islamist government implementing full Sharia law. In 2013 there was a sustained number of church attacks in spite of the increased security. These attacks include shootings, bombings, stabbings and burnings.

Influx of Foreign Fighters into Nigeria:
There is strong evidence confirming that insurgents from Cameroon, Chad and Niger are moving into northern Nigeria and joining the ranks of Boko Haram. There is confirmation of links between al-Qaeda and al-Shabab.[3]

Strategic Suicide Bombings:
For the first several years of Boko Haram's attacks, they mainly attacked people using small arms and machetes. Now,

[3] http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Latest-News-Wires/2013/1026/Foreign-fighters-part-of-Nigeria-s-Boko-Haram

it is very common for them to use bombs and even suicide-bombing tactics.

Random Attacks on Mosques:
It is often stated that Boko Haram has killed more Muslims than Christians. Our data does not validate this. The key trend in 2013 is that instead of targeted individual Muslims for assassination, Boko Haram appears to be making more arbitrary attacks with greater lethality. 2013 witnessed the first known ambush of Muslim worshippers through a call to prayer.

Home Invasions:
Another prominent soft target that is being attacked frequently has been the individual homes of Christians. These are relatively easy targets, as there are few witnesses and almost no fear of a violent response from police or military force.

Mass Destruction of Rural Communities:
Mostly rural churches have no security, and they hardly make any news headlines when targeted. On the fringes of Yobe and Borno States, Christians are systematically exterminated. Many times when these communities are overrun by Islamist extremists, the assailants will take over their homes and farms, stealing or destroying much of their property (local Muslims have reportedly joined in the looting of infidels' properties). In Baga, Munguno, Gambaru Ngala, Konduga, and many areas of Borno, Christians have been forced to abandon their livelihoods and homes and flee.

International Refugee Crisis:
The situation is such that we now have significant refugees in neighboring countries with many villagers flocking in droves to Cameroon. The trend in 2012 was internal displacement to camps and locations in the middle belt. However, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reported on October 29th 2013 that over 8,000 Nigerians have fled the violence and sought refuge in Cameroon, with an additional 2,000 Nigerian refugees in Niger and Chad. Their Abuja office later upgraded the number to 17,000. In 2014, thousands more have fled.

Gender-Based Violence:
Abducting Christian women is a more frequently used tactic of the Boko Haram militants. Many young girls are abducted, forced to convert and then forced into marriage with Boko Haram fighters. These abductees are also being used as human shields for the terrorists.

CONCLUSION:

The main reason Nigeria has not descended into a religious civil strife is the resilience and longsuffering of Nigerian Christians who refrained from retaliating. Out of about 400 religious incidents in northern Nigeria in 2012, none was initiated by Christians. Reprisals occurred only on three occasions.

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Human Rights Council
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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1411833

Please recycle

The Human Rights Council must take action to ensure an end to crimes against humanity in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Commission). The report presents a comprehensive review of the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the conclusion that many of these amount to crimes against humanity corresponds with Amnesty International's own findings. These violations indeed span almost the entire range of human rights.

While the government of the DPRK has continued to refuse to cooperate with the Commission and the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK, other UN member states must not ignore this comprehensive report. They must take strong action to ensure an end to these grave violations of human rights.

Amnesty International has reported that hundreds of thousands of people—including children—are held in political prison camps and other detention facilities in the DPRK, where they are subject to gross and systematic human rights violations. Many of those held in political prison camps are relatives of those deemed unfriendly to the North Korean administration and are detained as a form of collective punishment.

Amnesty International has collected testimonies of former detainees and prison guards at political prison camps in the DPRK to obtain information about conditions and treatment within these detention facilities. Former prisoners from the political prison camp at *kwanliso* 15 (Yodok) for instance told Amnesty International that inmates are forced to work in slave-like conditions and are frequently subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

While the DPRK government has continued to deny the existence of political prison camps, Amnesty International published again in 2013 analysis of satellite imagery that demonstrates the existence and continued use of these camps. In March 2013, Amnesty International released satellite imagery[1] analysis of political prison camp 14 (*kwanliso 14)* and the surrounding area commissioned by the organization's Science for Human Rights Program. The analysis of images taken between 2006 and 2013 found there was an observable increase in security infrastructure. A 20km perimeter was established, encircling the Choma-bong valley, sharing over 3km of its eastern border with *kwanliso* 14. By 2010, the full perimeter was established with some 20 guard posts erected. The activity observed in the satellite images points to a tightening in the control of movement of the local population adjacent to *kwanliso* 14, thus blurring the distinction between those detained in the camp and the valley's inhabitants.

In December 2013 the organization released further satellite image analysis of political prison camp (kwanliso)15 at Yodok in South Hamgyong province and kwanliso16 at Hwaseong in North Hamgyong province. The images show a possible increase in the population in kwanliso16. The satellite images reveal significant economic activity such as mining, logging and agriculture which, according to testimony, use a prison labour force who work long hours in dangerous conditions, are subjected to denial of food as punishment and are allowed only limited hours of rest. Of further concern, both political prison camps remain under tight control with movement restricted by secured entrance gates, guard towers and internal check points.

While it is estimated that over a hundred thousand people face appalling human rights violations within the system of political prison camps in the DPRK, the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association are severely curtailed outside the camps as well. There is no independent domestic media, no known independent opposition political parties and no independent civil society. Life for the ordinary population also remains dominated by extreme forms of repression, the persistent threat of arbitrary detention and food shortages. Amnesty International in 2010 found that the grain distribution by the Public Distribution System was inadequately resourced, but nonetheless reportedly favoured specific groups such as officials of the Korean Worker's Party, the State Security Agency, military and military industry, and miners.

Under national law, DPRK nationals are required to obtain permission to travel both internally and abroad. Those who violate travel restrictions face severe punishment as was detailed in the Commission's report. Amnesty International noted with concern statements and actions by North Korean authorities in 2013, which indicated that the government was escalating its efforts to prevent people from fleeing the country.

Amnesty International documented repatriations in 2013 including nine North Korean teenagers who were arrested in Laos and forcibly returned to the DPRK via China in May. In July 2013, Kim Kwang-ho, his wife and daughter escaped from the DPRK to China, accompanied by two of his wife's relatives, Kim Song-il and Kim Son-hye. The Chinese authorities allowed Kim Kwang-ho, his wife and daughter to go to the Republic of Korea. However, Kim Song-il and Kim Son-hye were reportedly forcibly returned to the DPRK. The Commission in its report urged countries to respect the principle of non-refoulement and abstain from forcibly repatriating any persons to the DPRK.

North Korean officials agreed on 13 August 2008 to re-open investigations into the fate and whereabouts of several Japanese nationals. On 17 September 2002, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il admitted to then Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro that the DPRK had abducted 13 Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s. The DPRK's widespread policy of enforced disappearance has affected the lives of tens of thousands of people from at least 11 countries including its own nationals, and from the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand and Lebanon. Instances of enforced disappearance cover the period from the Korean War (1950-53) to the present. In the majority of cases the North Korean authorities refuse to acknowledge the detention of these individuals or to provide information on their fate or whereabouts.

While exact numbers of executions and death sentences are very difficult to confirm, Amnesty International noted a large number of reported executions in 2013 including of political opponents of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un. Other acts for which people were reportedly executed included murder and cannibalism, embezzlement, pornography, escaping to China, corruption, activities that countered the goals of the Korean Workers' Party and watching banned videos from the Republic of Korea. Death sentences continued to be handed down, including for acts that do not meet the threshold of the "most serious crimes" under international law and for acts that do not carry the death penalty under North Korean law.

For too long, insufficient attention has been given to the enormity of the human rights violations in the DPRK while governments have focussed on the issues of security and peace. It is the responsibility of UN member states to ensure that human rights are at the forefront of the agenda on the DPRK and take this new opportunity to press for concrete action.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council to:

- extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK;
- establish a structure to help to ensure accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK and to continue the collection of evidence and documentation work of the Commission;
- urge the UN Secretariat and agencies to urgently adopt and implement a common "Rights up Front" strategy to ensure that all engagement with the DPRK effectively takes into account and addresses human rights concerns; and
- ask that the Secretary-General refer the report of the Commission to the Security Council.

Amnesty International calls on the DPRK government to:

- acknowledge the existence of human rights violations and the political prison camps;
- immediately close down all political prison camps and immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of 'guilt-by-association';
- release all other inmates or charge them with an internationally recognizable offence, and conduct a fair trial in line with international standards without recourse to the death penalty;

- take immediate and transparent action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment of all detainees in political prison camps and other detention facilities, including hard forced labour and denial of food as punishment;

- respect, protect and fulfill the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate food and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

- ensure that government policy on access to food and health is free of discrimination and political considerations, and give the necessary attention to the needs of marginalized groups;

- amend the Criminal Code so that leaving the country without permission does not constitute a criminal offence;

- abolish the requirement for permission to travel internally and abroad;

- ensure that no one is detained or prosecuted for leaving the country without permission or subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, forced labour, enforced disappearance or the death penalty on return;

- immediately stop all abductions and enforced disappearances and ensure that all persons subjected to abduction or enforced disappearance are free to leave the DPRK;

- immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of all persons subjected to enforced disappearance; and

- establish immediately a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment.

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[1] Amnesty International, "*North Korea: new images shows blurring of political prison camp and villages in North Korea*", 7 March 2013, ASA 24/004/2013.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 March 2014]

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1411992

Please recycle

Human Rights Violation of Terrorists and Japanese Government

On March 1, 2014, secessionists made a serious violent terrorist incident in Kunming, Yunnan in China, in which 29 innocent people were killed and 143 were injured, including women, children and the elderly. We express our deep condolences to the victims. These terrorists, who tramp on human rights, do not represent any ethnic group or any religion. What behind them is the political conspiracy to split China. We strongly opposes any terrorist violence and activity for the purpose of splitting China.

Similar to the nature of the terrorists violating human rights, 77 years ago the massacre of over 300,000 innocent civilians in Nanjing by the invading Japanese army is also a massive violation of human rights. But today the Japanese government denies the Nanjing Massacre, fails to reflect on its aggression and violations of human rights in World War II and insists on visiting the Yasukuni shrine. To this we express our strong indignation.

We urge the Japanese government to apologize for the Nanjing Massacre and comfort women and take the corresponding historical responsibilities; to stop visiting the Yasukuni Shrine and stop hurting the feelings of the people in the victimized Asian countries; and to stop tampering with textbooks and distorting history.

We support China's establishment of the National Memorial Day for the Nanjing Massacre Victims. We urge the Chinese government to make anti-terrorism laws to maintain social stability.

We urge the international community to work together to fight against violent terrorism and refrain from double standards.

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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Cultural Rights Protection of Ethnic Minorities in China

We believe that great efforts have been made in China over the years in protecting the cultural rights of ethnic minorities, which have proved to be fruitful and effective, although some problems still remain.

We note that a number of policies and initiatives have been issued in China in recent years to help protect the cultural rights of ethnic minorities. For example, relevant provisions have been made in multiple legal and policy documents, including the *Several Opinions of the State Council on Further Boosting Ethnic Cultural Undertakings*, the *Law on Intangible Cultural Heritage*, the *Cultural Reform and Development Plan during the National 12th Five-Year Plan Period* and the *12th Five-year Plan for Development of Undertakings Related to Ethnic Minority Groups*. These provisions cover matters such as accelerating the construction of public cultural infrastructures for ethnic minorities and in ethnic areas, developing press and broadcasting in ethnic minority languages, exploring and preserving cultural relics and documentation of ethnic minority groups, respecting and protecting ethnic minority languages, and developing education for ethnic minorities. Meanwhile, a number of projects have been implemented to enrich and develop the cultural life of ethnic minorities. Examples are the projects for protecting villages with ethnic features, extending radio and TV broadcasting coverage to every village, playing films in rural areas, sharing information on cultural resources, building rural reading rooms, protecting intangible cultural heritage and constructing libraries and cultural centers (stations).

We see with appreciation that:

Cultural institutions and infrastructures for ethnic minority groups have been improved. Statistics show that currently there are nearly 10,000 artistic and cultural organizations in ethnic autonomous areas.

Ethnic cultural heritage and documentation have been rescued and protected to a certain extent. For example, in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding of the United Nations, 13 out of the 34 items from China are related to ethnic minority groups.

Progress has been made in the use and development of spoken and written languages of ethnic minorities. Currently, the use and development by ethnic minority groups of their own spoken and written languages have been covered in 14 laws and 16 regulations in China. According to statistics, currently in China there are 38 publishing houses of books in ethnic languages, as well as 99 newspapers and 222 periodicals in ethnic languages. The Central People's Broadcasting Station and the local radios in areas with concentrated ethnic communities broadcast in 21 ethnic languages every day. In addition, the "bilingual teaching" in both mandarin and ethnic languages launched in ethnic autonomous areas have received support.

Cultural and artistic talents from ethnic minority groups have been developed and artistic creation has become more active. There are 24 higher and secondary art schools specialized in developing artistic talents from ethnic minority groups in the areas with concentrated ethnic communities in China, and some other higher and secondary art schools also have specialized ethnic minority classes.

National ethnic cultural events have played an active role in the heritage, innovation and spread of ethnic cultures. Currently in China the National Ethnic Arts Festival is held every five years, the National Traditional Ethnic Minority Sports Meeting is held every four years, the National Ethnic Minority Folk Performances and China Ethnic Theater Festival are held every three years and the National Exhibition of Teaching Achievements in Vocational Schools in Ethnic Areas is held every year. These events among others have played an active role in the protection, development and spread of ethic cultures and the fusion and harmonious coexistence of diverse cultures.

Local cultural and sports activities with ethnic features are very helpful for carrying forward the traditional ethnic cultures. Take Naadam in Inner Mongolia and Torch Festival in Yunnan for example, the events have not only widely

attended by local people but also attracted people across the country for cultural and tourism activities. Therefore they have both carried forward the traditional cultures and increased local tourism revenues.

However, we also see that there are still some real difficulties and challenges facing the protection and development of cultural rights of ethnic minorities.

For example: The construction of the systems for public cultural service is still weak in ethnic areas. Some counties and cities in ethnic areas have no cultural center or library and some townships have no cultural station. Especially in some border areas, the facilities and conditions for public culture are even weaker and the public cultural services available are limited.

The scale and quality of the bilingual education in ethnic areas are yet to be improved. Bilingual teachers in ethnic areas are insufficient.

We urge Chinese Government that:

More input should be channeled to the protection and development of traditional culture and education in ethnic areas. Adequate attention should be paid to the nature for public good of ethnic cultural products and services and efforts be made in ensuring the supply of ethnic cultural products.

Intensified efforts should be made in promoting the reform and innovation in the systems and mechanisms related to ethnic cultures and attracting more non-governmental inputs to the industrial development and market competition of ethnic cultures.

More resources should be invested in the implementation of "bilingual teaching" to meet the needs of ethnic minorities for passing on their traditional cultures and getting jobs and integrating in other parts of China.